[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 12: Letters 111-120

[Letter #111]

[Letterhead of W.T. Walters and Company Baltimore]
Baltimore September 24, 1873

Mr. A. Hyde, Secretary
Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington, DC

Dear Sir

We hope the picture case sent yesterday reached you in safety. The two remaining cases we got today from the ship I have all day been trying to get transportation for them but without effect. One is quite large and one very large 12 feet by 8 feet. The Express Company refused to take them. We then applied to Steamer Georgiana but after hauling them to her wharf she declined taking them. In the morning we will apply to Steamer Columbia and if she cannot take them there will be no option but to send them on one of the flat open cars of the B and O Railroad Freight train. Should this become necessary, we will do all that is practical to have the cases protected by tarpaulin. The cases are in apparently perfectly sound condition.

In accordance with the Custom House requirements here (pursuant to the Treasury [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]) the cases are marked and must be shipped to Corcoran Art Gallery care of [N.S.?] Custom Collector Georgetown. Now to save their unnecessary transport to Georgetown, can you not get the Secretary permission to take them at once into your possession at the Washington City Wharf [or?] depot which even they may go to [q?]. Should they go by rail, it would, we should think, be very desirable that you should have a spring wagon and 4 to 5 men

ready at the depot when the freight train arrives. Of course the arrival of all freight trains is at uncertain hours, as they often have to switch off for passenger trains. We believe however that (if they go by rail) they will start from here tomorrow night and be at your depot Friday morning. We will write or telegraph you the number of the car conveying them or the fact that we have shipped them by Steamer Columbia.

Yours Very Truly
W.T. Walters and Company

[Back of Letter #111]

W.T. Walters and Company
September 24, 1873
Baltimore
With regard to the shipment of two cases of pictures to Georgetown or Washington

[Letter #112]

[Letterhead of W.T. Walters and Company Baltimore]
Baltimore September 25, 1873

Mr. A. Hyde, Secretary
Corcoran Art Gallery
Washington, DC

Dear Sir

We have finally determined to ship the 2 cases by Steamer Columbia. They will go aboard tomorrow. She will leave here Saturday evening and reach Georgetown Monday morning. There the cases will be landed, as we are advised that [the?] [haul?} [thence?] to the Gallery is really less than from the Washington Wharf.

Yours Very Truly
W.T. Walters and Company

[Back of Letter #112]
W.T. Walters and Company
September 25, 1873
Baltimore
Will ship the two cases to Georgetown by Steamer Columbia

[Letter #113]

W.T. Walters and Company
September 26,1873
Baltimore
Has shipped the two cases to Georgetown by Steamer Columbia

[Letterhead of W.T. Walters and Company Baltimore]
Baltimore September 26, 1873
Mr. A. Hyde, Secretary
Corcoran Gallery of Art Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

We have today shipped the 2 large picture cases by Steamer Columbia. She will leave here tomorrow, (Saturday) evening and reach Georgetown, Monday morning.

The cases are marked Corcoran Gallery of Art, Care of [New?] Custom Collector, Georgetown DC

Marks G1 - B 1, G3 B 3 [B is enclosed in 'drawn diamond shaped box' - may symbolize a 'box']

Hoping that they will reach you safely and the contents be a notable addition to the Gallery, we are

Yours truly
W.T. Walters and Company

[Letter #114]

Lucas: G.A Paris October 1 1873

[Envelope from London enclosed with letter]

41 Rue de l'arc de [Triomphe?] Paris
1 October 1873

Dear Sir,

[Here?, Over?] you will please find "copy" of invoice of six cases for the Corcoran Gallery of Art. shipped by direction of Mr. William T. Walters. These cases will be forwarded to you, as before, by the house of Lherbette Kane and Company and are not insured.

The bronzes and plates are numbered with tickets on the bottoms, numbers coinciding with numbers on the bills and will thus furnish you with subject and name of each. The bills I will hand Mr.Walters on his return.

Most respectfully yours,
G.A. Lucas

Mr. A. Hyde, Secretary
Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington, D.C.

P.S. These cases should leave by the Steamer “Leipzig”? sailing for Baltimore, the tenth of October
[Invoice and Lherbette Kane and Company Declaration of Goods included with letter]

[Letter #115]

Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington
November 16, 1871

There has been received into the “Corcoran Gallery of Art” a colossal marble bust of Napoleon the First, by Canova, together with a black walnut pedestal which is subject to the order of Mrs. Sarah B. Hodge of Washington.

(Signed) A. Hyde
Secretary

My compliments to Mrs. Hodge with the above copy of the letter which has been lost or mislaid.

Very respectfully
A. Hyde
Secretary
[December 12, 1871?]

[Additional letter enclosed]

Washington October 3, 1973

Trustees of the Corcoran Art Gallery Washington

Gentlemen - On behalf of the estate of the late William L. Hodge I would respectfully request that you would purchase the colossal bust of Napoleon I, now in the Gallery at the price of $1,500.00.

The bust is by the celebrated Canova, and was purchased directly from him many years ago by Mr. John L. Hodge, a brother of my father. It has been pronounced by parties who had seen Napoleon an excellent likeness, and the well known name of the sculpture, as well as an examination of the bust itself, are the best evidences of its character as a work of art.

Hoping you will give this proposition an early and favorable consideration - I remain

Very respectfully your obedient servant
J. Ledyard Hodge
[Executor?] of W.[L.?] Hodge

[Back of letter #115]
J. Ledyard Hodge [Executor?]
October 3, 1873
Washington
Requests Trustees to purchase the bust of Napoleon I by “Canova” for $1,500.

[Letter #116]

J. Sergeant [Blaukman?]
October 8, 1873
Offering 2 pictures for sale

1. Supposed to be an original Rembrandt
2. Supposed to be painted in the time of Queen Elizabeth

Washington D.C. October 8 1873
Mr. W.W. Corcoran
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Understanding through the press that you are making a collection of oil paintings for the Corcoran Art Gallery. I desire respectfully to inform you that I have two paintings which I desire to sell.

One I am informed and believe is an original Rembrandt - the other I am also informed and believe was painted in the time of Queen Elizabeth. Hoping to hear from you in regard to the subject I am respectfully

Yours
J. Sergeant [Blaukman?]
Number 222, 4 ½ Street

[Letter #117]

Lherbette Kane and Company
October 8, 1873 Paris
Encloses legalized invoice of 6 cases from G.A. Lucas shipped per “Leipzig” 10th [inst?]

[Letterhead of Lherbette Kane and Company]

Per “Leipzig”

A. Hyde Esquire
Corcoran Gallery of Art Washington

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find legalised invoice of 6 cases from Mr. G.A. Lucas which we have shipped you through our [illegible] per “Leipzig” 10th [inst?].

We remain, Dear Sir
Yours truly
Lherbette Kane

Corcoran Gallery of Art Washington
5/9

[Enclosed with letter is Lherbette Kane and Company Bill of Lading]

[Back of letter]
Lherbette Kane and Company
October 8, 1873
[Havre?]

[Letter #118]

E.P. Breed

October 8, 1873 New York
Requesting a 'relinquishment' be executed (pictures left to the Gallery by Mrs. Mills)

[Letterhead of E.P. Breed Counsellor at Law Room 20, 4 Warren Street New York, October 8, 1873]

To the Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington D.C.

In the matter of the suit of Henry E.P. Sutton against George [?] M. Davis The Corcoran Gallery and others:

I understand by your letter bearing date the eighth day of March 1873 that you will make no defence to the action; the claims set up by the plaintiff in his complaint have either been adjusted or are in process of adjustment, except in the matter of the family pictures.

As you have not appeared it will be necessary for the plaintiff to obtain a ference by order of Court the expense of which is considerable unless you will be pleased to relieve him.

It seems to me that the object could be attained either by your appearance and consenting to the entry of a decree that the executor deliver the pictures to the plaintiff, or, by the execution by you of a paper of purport similar to that which I enclose herewith. If it should please you execute the paper I should then discontinue the action as against you without costs and the executor would deliver the pictures to the plaintiff.

I should prefer that you execute the paper. I dislike to trouble you in the matter but I very much desire to secure the family pictures to the plaintiff and shall be gratified if you will aid me.

With great respect your [illegible]
E.P. Breed
Plaintiffs Attorney

[Letter #119]

Secretary of the Treasury
October 21 1873

Has issued instructions to allow 6 cases of works of art to pass through port of Baltimore without examination and be examined here, as requested.

[Letterhead of Treasury Department, Washington, D.C., October 21, 1983]

Sir;

I am in receipt of your letter of this date, requesting that six(6) cases of Works of Art to arrive at Baltimore per Steamer “Leipzig:” from Southampton for use of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, may be allowed to pass through that port without examination, and examined here by the Georgetown Customs officers, and, in accordance with said request, the necessary instructions have this day been issued to the Collectors at Baltimore and Georgetown.

The Bills of Lading enclosed in your letter are herewith returned.

I am, very respectfully,
[William A. Richardson?]
Secretary

A. Hyde, Esquire
Secretary Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

[Letter #120]

Circular of “Truth Unveiling Falsehood” October 1873

[Enclosed circular “Truth Unveiling Falsehood” painted by Mrs. L.M. Spencer]